

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 DRC-01 /086 W

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R 021440Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FOODGRAIN SITUATION

REF: NEW DELHI 9997

BEGIN SUMMARY: THERE WAS SOME PICKUP IN MONSOON ACTIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY. OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE MONSOON DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON CONTINUES TO BE BELOW AVERAGE AND SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW ITS PERFORMANCE DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1973. INDICATIONS ARE THE GOVERNMENT MAY ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN TO GENERALLY THE IMPORTANT URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL CENTERS WITH THE RURAL POPULATION LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. THIS COULD BECOME VERY HARD TO DO OR EXTREMELY PAINFUL TO CERO IN RURAL AREAS IF THERE IS A POOR

MONSOON THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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1. THERE WAS IMPROVEMENT IN PRECIPITATION OVER SOME PARTS OF

THE COUNTRY DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 31. THE NUMBER OF WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING THE WEEK INCREASED TO 17 FROM 10 (OUT OF A TOTAL OF 35) IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK. AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL DURING THE WEEK WERE: ASSAM AND THE ADJOINING AREAS, WEST BENGAL AND NORTHERN BIHAR IN EASTERN INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH (EXCEPT FOR THE WESTERN PLAINS AREA) AND HARYANA IN THE NORTHERN REGION, KERALA, KARNATAKA, WESTERN ANDHRA PRADESH AND SOUTHEASTERN MAHARASHTRA IN THE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL REGION. FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE CURRENT MONSOON SEASON, EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH RECEIVED NORMAL LEVELS OF RAINFALL. NORTH KARNATAKA AND RAYALA-SEEMJA(SOUTHWESTERN ANDHRA PRADESH) RECEIVED NORMAL LEVELS OF RAINFALL AFTER A LAPSE OF FIVE WEEKS.

2. THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE MONSOON DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON HAS BEEN BELOW AVERAGE AND SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW ITS PERFORMANCE DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1973. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO JULY 31, 1974 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL IN ONLY 14 WEATHER ZONES, COMPARED TO 28 ZONES WHICH WERE IN THE NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL CATEGORIES DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1973. RAINFALL HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY DEFICIENT RANGING FROM 37-74PERCENT BELOW NORMAL, IN UTTAR PRADESH, SOUTHERN BIHAR, ORISSA, MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, EASTERN MAHARASHTRA, WESTERN ANDHRA PRADESH AND SOUTHEASTERN KARNATAKA.

3. ALTHOUGH THE PICK-UP IN MONSOON ACTIVITY DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY HAS IMPROVED CROP CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THE OVERALL OUTLOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S FALL HARVESTED FOODGRAINS AND OTHER CROPS CONTINUES TO BE LESS THAN FAVORABLE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT INDIA WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME FULLY THE ILL-EFFECTS OF TARDY COVERAGE AND GENERALLY DEFICIENT JUNE-JULY RAINFALL EVEN IF THERE IS AVERAGE RAINFALL WITH NORMAL DISTRIBUTION DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

4. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO PROCURE SOME GRAIN DURING JULY. WHEAT PROCUREMENT AS OF JULY 29 TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 1.73 MILLION TONS INCLUDING 1.20 MILLION FROM THE 50 PERCENT LEVY ON WHOLESALERS TRANSACTIONS AND .53 MILLION LARGELY PROCURED DIRECTLY FROM FARMERS. WHEAT PROCUREMENT DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST YEAR (UNDER BASICALLY MONOPOLY PROCUREMENT DIRECTLY FROM THE FARMERS) TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 4.33 MILLION TONS. RICE AND COARSE GRAIN PROCUREMENT FROM LAST NOVEMBER TO JULY 24 TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 3.81 MILLION TONS, AND .37 MILLION TONS, RESPECTIVELY.

5. LOWER TOTAL GRAIN PROCUREMENT THIS YEAR WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO CUT BACK ON THE DESIRED LEVEL OF DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN

TO FAIR PRICE SHOPS, INCREASE IMPORTS OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH.  
THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO RESTRICT  
THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN TO GENERALLY THE IMPORTANT URBAN AND  
INDUSTRIAL CENTERS WITH THE RURAL POPULATION LEFT TO TAKE CARE  
OF THEMSELVES. THIS COULD BECOME VERY HARD TO DO OR EXTREMELY  
PAINFUL TO CERTAIN RURAL AREAS IF THERE IS A POOR MONSOON  
THIS YEAR.  
MOYNIHAN

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